

## Early Medical Abortion without an Ultrasound Scan

### Who is able to have this?

Women who are medically suitable to have an early medical abortion (you will be advised if this is not the case)

AND

Women who are certain that they are less than 10 weeks pregnant

### Who is not suitable?

Early medical abortion without scanning is not suitable for women with symptoms suggestive of ectopic pregnancy. An ectopic pregnancy is a rare condition where the pregnancy grows outside the womb. Symptoms of this can include one sided lower abdominal pain and bleeding.

Early medical abortion without scanning is not suitable for women with risk factors for ectopic pregnancy. These include:

- having a contraceptive coil in place
- previous ectopic pregnancy
- previous surgery to your fallopian tubes (including sterilisation)
- have been advised that your fallopian tubes are damaged

**If you have concerns that you are not suitable for this treatment, please contact Hope House and ask for advice BEFORE taking your tablets.**

### Is there any difference in the treatment?

No.

The medical abortion treatment is exactly the same as for women who have a scan. You will be provided with all of the abortion medication to take at home. The first pill, mifepristone is taken as soon as you are able to. The second medication, misoprostol is taken 24-48 hours later (as described in the booklet). You will also be provided with pain relief.

### What is the advantage of having treatment without a scan?

Women can access this treatment with minimal face to face contact with health professionals. All of the assessment can be done over the telephone, including gaining your consent for the procedure. This is particularly useful for avoiding contact during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### What are the disadvantages?

There are a small number of women who will be further along in their pregnancy than we expect, though in 98-99 women out of 100 their period date will be right.

If you are further along in your pregnancy, the overall risk of the abortion failing is slightly higher. There is information in your booklet about signs to look out for that would indicate that the abortion has not been successful. Please get in touch with us if you are worried your abortion has not been successful.

There is a slightly higher risk of there being more bleeding and pain during the abortion, and the possibility of seeing pregnancy tissue if you are further along than you think. The information leaflet has details of what to do if you are worried about heavy bleeding, as well as other concerns, 24 hours a day.

If you have an ectopic pregnancy, the diagnosis of this may be delayed. Ectopic pregnancy happens in about 1:1000 patients seeking abortion. Medical abortion would not affect the ectopic pregnancy, but it is important that it is picked up.

If after 72 hours of taking the second tablets pregnancy symptoms haven't diminished or you develop one sided pelvic pain, or shoulder pain at any time, please contact Hope House for advice, letting the team know that you have not had a scan.